

## Philosophy 7: BIOMEDICAL Ethics

**Winter 2009**

**MWF 12:00-12:50 PM; South Hall 1431**

**Instructor:**

Joe Lee, Philosophy Dept.

Office: South Hall 5718

Office Hours: Mondays 1:00PM-3:00 PM and by appointment

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**Teaching Assistant:**

Carmen Zinn, Philosophy Dept.

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**Course Description:**

Phil 7 is a lower-division introduction to biomedical ethics. This class will be a study of some of the more controversial moral dilemmas that arise within the field of medicine in particular, and concern issues of life and death in general. The following are just some of the tough questions that we will philosophically examine in this class: When, if ever, is a woman morally justified in getting an abortion? Is it morally wrong to clone human beings? If it is, why is it wrong? If it is not wrong, why think it is not? Is a physician permitted to put you to death if that is what you as her terminally ill patient desires? What is so controversial about stem-cell research? Is stem-cell research morally permissible? Is it ok to medically experiment on animals? Does every person have a right to receive health care? How truthful does your doctor have to be with you?

**Required Text:**

Course Reader, available at Grafikart, on Pardall Road, in Isla Vista. I may also assign additional reading throughout the quarter, which I will post on the website.

**Course website:** <http://www.philosophy.ucsb.edu/websites/phil7/>

**Course Goals and Objectives:**

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Recognize, and explain (in your own words), the logical structure of the philosophical arguments under discussion,
2. Compare and contrast the various philosophical theories under discussion, and
3. Critically evaluate the strengths and weakness of these philosophical theories, i.e. be able to communicate (in your own words) *why* you think the claims made by the philosophers under discussion *are* or *are not justified*.

You will demonstrate that you have met these objectives by participating in section, writing **two short papers** and taking a **Final exam**. Both of your papers should be clear, concise, and well argued (I will be giving you your paper topics later). Your Final exam will be comprehensive and cumulative.

**Course Requirements:**

- Section Attendance and Participation worth 5% of your course grade.
- Two short papers (approx 5 pages each) worth 25% and 35% of your course grade, respectively.
  - First paper: assigned on Fri. Jan 30<sup>th</sup>. Due on Fri. Feb 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - Second paper: assigned Fri. Feb 27<sup>th</sup>. Fri. March 6<sup>th</sup>.
- A Final Exam worth 35% of your grade.
  - Time: Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup> 12:00pm-3:00pm

Your TA will grade your Section Attendance/Participation, papers, and Final exam.

If you turn in a late paper, for every day that your paper is late it will be penalized by 1/3 of a letter grade. Exceptions will only be made for those who have a legitimate excuse (e.g. you were in the hospital) and proper documentation (e.g. a doctor's note). **Note Well: Do not turn in a paper to the philosophy department office (where our mailboxes are). The office staff does not take kindly to that. You hand your paper in to your TA. Consult with your TA regarding the permissibility of emailed papers.**

**DSP:**

DSP students will, of course, be accommodated. Let me know if you are a DSP student who requires assistance.

**Writing Support:**

I cannot stress enough that good writing skills are absolutely necessary for success in philosophy. You will not excel if you cannot write well. This is because doing the work of philosophy requires that you clearly communicate complex and abstract ideas. So, in addition to the help that your TA and I can provide, you should seek out the help of the writing tutors at Campus Learning Assistance Services.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism runs contrary to the purposes of the University and will in no way be tolerated. If you are caught plagiarizing or cheating in any way, you will receive an automatic F for the class and I will report you to the appropriate university authorities. It is your responsibility to ensure that your work is not plagiarized. If you have questions on this issue, consult the following website or see me or the TA. <http://hep.ucsb.edu/people/hnn/conduct/dsq.html>

**Tentative Course Outline:**

You can consult the Table of Contents in your Reader for a basic course outline. Note: throughout the course I will be announcing to you what your reading assignments will be for each day.

NOTE: I reserve the right to amend the contents of this syllabus for any reason.